

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1. (*Currently Amended*) Method of producing a frozen apple product used in making apple French fries, comprising the steps of:

cleaning a whole apple;

peeling the whole apple;

coring the whole apple;

slicing the whole apple into a predetermined shape of apple pieces with a mechanical cutter device;

spraying water on the apple pieces;

coating the wet apple pieces with a powder consisting essentially of a mixture of corn starch and rice flour powder; and

freezing the coated apple pieces ~~for storage~~ to produce a frozen apple product; and
packaging the frozen product of coated apple pieces in predetermined quantities for storage and subsequent distribution to wholesale and retail outlets.

Claim 2. (*Original*) The method according to claim 1, wherein the apple is a Granny Smith apple.

Claim 3. (*Original*) The method according to claim 1, wherein the spraying water step comprises moistening the apple pieces with a water mist.

Claim 4. (*Original*) The method according to claim 1, wherein the powder consists essentially of a mixture of approximately 75% cornstarch and 25% rice powder.

Claim 5. (*Original*) The method according to claim 4, wherein the amount of powder used in coating the apple pieces is determined proportionally according to the weight of the apple pieces being powdered, the ratio being approximately two ounces of powder per pound of apple pieces.

Claim 6. (*Original*) The method according to claim 1, wherein the amount of powder used in coating the apple pieces is determined proportionally according to the weight of the apple pieces being powdered, the ratio being approximately two ounces of powder per pound of apple pieces.

Claim 7. (*Currently Amended*) The method according to claim 1, wherein the predetermined shape of the apple pieces is selected from the group consisting of a strip, a wedge, a cube, a ring and a spiral.

Claims 8-11. (*Canceled*)